Schemes to Boost exports

874. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced some schemes for increasing country's exports;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what will be the anticipated increase in exports through the recently announced schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Some of the important measures announced by Government during the recent past are as follows:—

(i) A Scheme for supply of Diesel Oil at special prices comparable to international prices to eligible production units exporting 25 per cent or more of their production;

(ii) Procedures under the Gold Control Act for promoting exports of Gems & Jewellery have been simplified and streamlined. Facility for stock and supply of Gold for 100 per cent Export Prodction by MMTC, improvement in bank credit facility etc. have also been provided;

(iii) A promotional incentive scheme for exports of South Indian Teas has been announced;

(iv) Export Duty on Coffee has been withdrawn;

(v) Duty Drawback procedures have been liberalised;

(vi) Cash Compensatory Suport (CCS) has been announced on export of a few new items;

(vii) 100 per ent Export Oriented Units and Units in the Export Processing Zones have been made eligible for CCS @ 50 per cent of the normal rate on physical exports.

(viii) Export Duty on black pepper has been withdrawn; and

(ix) Blanket Import-Export Pass Book Scheme has been introduced for boosting export of cotton and Synthetic Garments. This facility has also been extended to silk and woollen garments.

The Export target of Rs. 18795 crores has been fixed for 1988-89 as against provisional exports of Rs. 15719.36 crores during 1987-88 i.e. an increase of about 19 per cent Exports during April-August, 1988 amounted to Rs. 7312.99 crores as compared to Rs. 6074.67 crores during April-August, 1987 showing an increase of about 20 per cent.

Employment to women workers in Andhra Pradesh under the social forestry programme

875. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme to provide employment to women workers under Social Forestry Programme in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the progress made with the said scheme in each district of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There is no scheme to provide employment exclusively for women workers only under Social Forestry Programmes in Andhra Pradesh. However, the social forestry project assisted by Canadian International Development Agency visualizes that women will account for 46 per cent of the total labour input during the project period.

(b) This Project was initiated in 1983-84 and has been extended upto 1989-90. The revised target for afforestation is approximately 44840 hectares

of plantation and 3785 kilo-metres of strip plantation and all the 23 districts of the State are covered under the programme. The progress reported by the State upto the end of June, 1988 is 28850 hectares of block plantation and 2945 kilo-metres of strip plantation. Districtwise figures are not reported.

Stock of coffee in the country

876. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a surplus stock of coffee in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken to step up export of coffee to exhaust the surplus stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) According to preliminary estimates the crop in 1988-89 is estimated to leave a surplus of about 20,000 tonnes of coffee at the end of 1989.

Efforts are being made to maximise exports of coffee. This is proposed to be achieved through the enhanced quota alloted to India by ICO this year, higher exports of coffee to non-quota countries through bilateral negotiations, and increase in exports of instant Coffee. Steps are simultaneously being taken to explore new markets for exports of Indian Coffee.

Trade between India and South East Asian countries

877. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the balance of trade position with South East Asian countries has remained adverse for India; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been envisaged for better trade performance with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) In the last two years, balance of trade position with Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore has been unfavourable to India, whereas it has been favourable to India with Thailand and Philippines.

(b) One of the reason for this trade imbalance is import of essential bulk commodities like edible oil, rubber, tin etc. Efforts to increase India's exports to these countries include bilateral trade discussions, participation in fairs/exhibitions, more frequent inter action of business communities, pursuing project exports etc.

Review of export performance

878. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any review of the country's export performance during the first half of the current financial year;

(b) if so, what was the target set for the first half of the current financial year; and

(c) what achievements have been made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The export performance is reviewed continously. Export Target is fixed for the full financial year and not on half yearly basis. For the current financial year 1988-89, the Export Target has been set at Rs. 18795 crores. According to the provisional statistics available from DGCI&S, India's exports during April-August, 1988 amounted to Rs. 7312.99 crores, as compared to Rs. 6074.67 crores during April-August, 1987.